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SATI AND SHIVA

**DAKSHA, LORD BRAHMA'S
WISH-BORN SON, A
PRAJAPATI (LORD OF
CREATURES), WAS
ENTRUSTED WITH THE DUTY
TO POPULATE THE
UNIVERSE. HE WITH HIS
WIFE, PRASTUTI, HAD MANY
DAUGHTERS WHO WERE
MARRIED OFF TO GODS
AND SAGES. SATI, HIS
YOUNGEST DAUGHTER, WAS
HIS FAVORITE.**



SATI WAS THE REINCARNATION OF ARDHASHAKTI, OR THE BETTER HALF OF LORD SHIVA WHICH HE HAD SACRIFICED TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE IN THE UNIVERSE AND WAS THUS, DESTINED TO MARRY LORD SHIVA. BUT DAKSHA DETESTED HIM AND HIS HERMETIC LIFESTYLE. SATI GREW UP TO BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE, AND THERE WERE INNUMERABLE SUITORS WHO WANTED HER HAND IN MARRIAGE.



**SATI, DETERMINED TO FULFILL HER
DESTINY, WENT TO THE
HIMALAYAS TO MEDITATE AND
APPEASE LORD SHIVA. PLEASED
WITH HER DEVOTION, HE AGREED
TO MARRY HER AT ONCE.**

**ALL THE GODS ATTENDED
THEIR WEDDING. DAKSHA
DID NOT APPROVE OF THE
MARRIAGE, BUT
RELUCTANTLY GAVE HIS
CONSENT. AFTER THE
WEDDING, LORD SHIVA AND
GODDESS SATI MADE
MOUNT KAILASH THEIR
ABODE AND LED A HAPPY
MARRIED LIFE.**

DAKSHA FELT INSULTED AS HE HAD TO ACCEPT A HERMETIC LORD SHIVA AS HIS SON-IN-LAW AND DECIDED TO AVENGE HIS PRIDE. SOON AFTER, HE ORGANISED A GRAND YAGNA (RITUAL SACRIFICE) AND INVITED ALL THE GODS EXCEPT LORD SHIVA.

WHEN GODDESS SATI FOUND OUT ABOUT THE YAGNA, SHE WAS FURIOUS AT HER FATHER. SHE REQUESTED LORD SHIVA TO PARTICIPATE IN IT, BUT HE REFUSED. GODDESS SATI WAS DETERMINED TO CONFRONT HER FATHER. SHE SAID, "I AM HIS DAUGHTER, AND HE OWES ME AN EXPLANATION. HE CANNOT STOP ME FROM BEING WELCOMED TO MY OWN HOME." LORD SHIVA, SENSING TROUBLE, TRIED TO STOP GODDESS SATI, BUT SHE WOULD NOT LISTEN TO ANY WARNING.

WHEN GODDESS SATI ARRIVED AT HER FATHER'S HOUSE, DAKSHA WELCOMED HER COLDLY. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO INSULT HER HUSBAND IN FRONT OF THE GUESTS.



**ENRAGED AT HER
FATHER'S BEHAVIOUR, A
FURIOUS GODDESS SATI
DECLARED THAT SHE
WOULD NOT TOLERATE
ANY INSULT OF HER
HUSBAND. INVOKING A
SACRIFICIAL FIRE,
GODDESS SATI
SACRIFICED HERSELF.**



**LORD SHIVA WAS FURIOUS AFTER
LEARNING ABOUT SATI'S DEATH.**

**UNABLE TO CONTROL HIS
ANGER, HE BROUGHT FORTH
SUPERIOR BEINGS VIRABHADRA
AND BHADRAKALI, TO BEHEAD
DAKSHA. EVEN THOUGH MANY
GODS TRIED TO HELP DAKSHA,
VIRABHADRA AND BHADRAKALI
DESTROYED HIS ARMY AND
BEHEADED HIM.**

LORD BRAHMA PLEADED TO LORD SHIVA FOR HIS SON'S LIFE AND ASKED FOR FORGIVENESS FOR HIS BEHAVIOUR. LORD SHIVA CALMED DOWN, AND REVIVED DAKSHA BY REPLACING HIS HEAD WITH A GOAT'S HEAD. HE PLACED GODDESS SATI'S BODY ON HIS SHOULDER AND STARTED WALKING THROUGH THE UNIVERSE, NEGLECTING HIS DUTIES. THE GODS WERE VERY CONCERNED AND APPROACHED LORD VISHNU TO HELP RESTORE BALANCE IN THE UNIVERSE.



LORD VISHNU USED HIS SUDARSHAN CHAKRA (A CELESTIAL WEAPON) TO CUT SATI'S BODY TO PIECES, WHICH FELL ON EARTH. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BODY PIECES WERE 52, AND THEY FELL ON 52 DIFFERENT PLACES. ALL THESE PLACES ARE KNOWN AS HOLY 52 SHAKTI PITHAS IN HINDU RELIGION, AND THERE IS A KALI OR SHAKTI TEMPLE IN EACH OF THEM. LORD SHIVA RETURNED TO MOUNT KAILASH TO MEDITATE AND MOURN HIS WIFE'S DEATH. GODDESS SATI EVENTUALLY RETURNED TO LORD SHIVA BY TAKING BIRTH AS PARVATI.